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## LOCAL MEETINGS AND OTHER NOTICES.

BOSTON. — The following report of meetings held during the year 1903-1904, and since the last printed account, is supplied by the Secretary of the Branch.

*December 8, 1903.* The first regular meeting of the season was held at the house of Mr. and Mrs. Otto B. Cole, 55 Boylston Street, Professor Putnam in the chair. Mr. Alfred M. Tozzer, of Harvard University, gave an account of the "Sand Paintings of the Navahos," reciting ceremonies which had come under his own observation. The address was illustrated with colored reproductions of the symbolic paintings.

*January 26, 1904.* The monthly meeting was held at the house of Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Willard, 40 Commonwealth Avenue. In the absence of Professor Putnam, Dr. W. C. Farabee introduced Dr. W. H. Drummond, of Montreal, who read a number of his well-known poems descriptive of French-Canadian dialect and character. A second paper was read by Mr. J. Macintosh Bell, recently employed by the Canadian government as director of explorations in the Arctic north. The speaker gave an account of Ojibway life and folk-lore as observed in the course of his expedition.

*March 1.* The meeting was held in the small hall of the Pierce Building. Mr. William Wells Newell treated the "Diffusion of Folk-Tales, as Illustrated by a Negro Legend of the Ignis Fatuus." He showed that in spite of the wide-spread belief, no veritable phenomenon of nature lay at the basis of the tradition. He read a witty Maryland legend, in negro dialect, undertaking to explain the origin of "Jack-my-Lantern," and explained its relations as a variant of an ancient European myth, connected with the folk-tale of the "Three Wishes."

*March 25.* The meeting was held at the house of Mr. and Mrs. William G. Preston, 1063 Beacon Street. In the absence of Professor Putnam, Dr. W. C. Farabee took the chair. The speaker of the evening was Dr. William A. Neilson, of Harvard University, his subject being "Burns and Scottish Folk-Song." He gave a learned account of the origin and development of many of the lyrics. The address was illustrated by music, many of the songs being admirably presented by Miss Hewins of Boston.

*Friday, April 29.* The meeting was held at the Hotel Brunswick, by invitation of Mrs. Munroe Ayer and Mr. William Wells Newell. Mr. Harlan Ingersoll Smith, of the American Museum of Natural History, New York, gave an illustrated lecture, his title being "Five American Nations,—the Children of the Snow, Forest, Mist, Desert, and Plains." Mr. Smith, whose numerous lantern slides were of remarkable excellence, described in an entertaining manner the various peoples.

The annual meeting was held before the paper. The President, Professor F. W. Putnam, made a brief address. Reports were presented from the Secretary and Treasurer. The latter announced a small balance in the treasury. The Secretary reported but one death and three resignations during the year, about a dozen new members having been added.

Officers were elected as follows: President, Professor F. W. Putnam; First Vice-President, Mr. W. W. Newell; Second Vice-President, Dr. W. C. Farabee; Treasurer, Mr. Eliot W. Remick; Secretary, Miss Helen Leah Reed; Council, Mrs. H. E. Raymond, Miss C. A. Benneson, Mrs. Lee Hoffman, Dr. J. H. Woods.

*Helen Leah Reed, Sec'y.*

CAMBRIDGE. *November 27, 1903.* The monthly meeting was held at the house of Miss Cook, 71 Appleton Street. Dr. R. B. Dixon, of Harvard University, was the speaker of the evening, his subject being the "Two Types of the American Creation Myth."

*December 24.* This meeting was held at the Peabody Museum, in connection with the Boston Branch. Dr. Livingston Farrand, of New York, gave a paper entitled "The Significance of Mythology and Tradition."

*January 27, 1904.* The Branch met at the house of Miss Hopkinson, 22 Craigie Street. Mr. J. Macintosh Bell, who in 1902 and 1903 had conducted explorations for the Canadian Geological Survey, gave an account of "The Ojibway People."

*March 1.* The meeting was held at the house of Dr. B. L. Robinson, Clement Circle. Dr. W. A. Neilson, of Harvard University, gave a paper on "Burns and Scottish Folk-Song." Musical illustration of the popular songs was supplied by Miss Hewins, Mrs. Minton Warren, and Mrs. Osborne.

*March 29.* The meeting took place at the house of Mrs. Yerxa, 37 Lancaster Street. Professor George H. Moore, of Harvard University, treated of recent essays in the mythological field, his subject being "Pan-Babel in Comparative Mythology."

*April 14.* The Branch met at the house of Mr. Chas. Peabody, 197 Brattle Street. Miss Emily Hallowell, of West Medford, Mass., illustrated "Songs of Alabama negroes," collected by herself at Calhoun University, Calhoun, Alabama.

*May 11.* The meeting was held at the house of Miss Batchelder, 28 Quincy Street. Professor F. N. Robinson, of Harvard University, treated "Folk-Lore of Ireland in the Celtic Revival."

*November 22.* The Branch met at the house of Miss Batchelder, 28 Quincy Street. Dr. George A. Clease, of Harvard University, treated of "Greek Religion in the Light of Recent Discoveries in Crete."

*December 13.* The meeting was held at the house of Miss Bumstead, 12 Berkeley Street. Dr. A. W. Ryder, of Harvard University, gave a paper including translations of "Sanskrit Fables and Epigrams."

*Constance G. Alexander, Sec'y.*

CINCINNATI. *October 19.* Dr. A. G. Drury gave a paper on "Legends of the Apple," including the story of the forbidden fruit.

*November 16.* Dr. H. H. Fich treated of "The Dance of Death," showing conceptions of Old German artists and writers, and the manner in which death was conceived as luring mortals.

*Harry Ellard, Sec'y.*